



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Budget & Management Services

CITY OF DURHAM

Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday January 22, 2026

In-person Meeting

I. Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Jimerson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Webb |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Rhodes | <input type="checkbox"/> Orlander Thomas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Sater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raivynn Smith |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denard Haney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosa Cuppari Paradiso |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Kaye | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary James |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Edmiston | <input type="checkbox"/> Samuel Thomas |

Also in attendance:

Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement (CP&E): Starla Tanner

Assistant Director of CP&E: James Davis

PB Staff: Carmen Ortiz and Fallon Thompson

Elizabeth Korver-Glenn: UNC professor who will be assisting with the process evaluation

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Unanimous

III. Announcement

- a. Kenneth presented the Annual Report prepared by himself, Rosa, and Raivynn. It will be circulated with updates prior to submission to Council

IV. PB Staff Updates

- a. Signage for PB projects has been ordered. It should arrive and be installed in the coming weeks.
- b. The DHA contract has been closed
- c. C.A.A.R.E. has been given a deadline of end of month before the contract is cancelled. Should the contract be formally cancelled, the PBSC will need to decide how the funds are reallocated.

V. PB Cycle IV Winning Project Approvals

- a. Staff reviewed participation throughout the PB cycle: 964 ideas submitted, a plurality of which were submitted by residents of Durham who had been here for >20 years. All ages were represented.
- b. There was an 88% retention rate for volunteer budget delegates (38 total). The delegates represented a diverse swath of Durham, with 55% of the group POC.
- c. 10 inmates from Durham County Jail participated as budget delegates. Ultimately 133 ideas were collected there



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- d. There were 16,824 ballots collected, a 38% increase from Cycle III.
 - i. Online ballots skewed high income (>\$100,000 household income) and White, whereas paper ballots had majority minority participation and substantial <\$100,000 in income (18% <\$24,000).
 - ii. Women were overrepresented in responses, although many respondents left sex blank. A plurality of residents had lived in Durham for >20 years.
 - e. The PBCS approved the winning projects within budget:
 - i. **Self Cleaning Restroom (\$350k)** – location TBD, in coordination with Durham General Services
 - ii. **Neighborhood Stories in Art (\$150k)** – locations TBD
 - iii. **Safer & Brighter Oxford Manor (\$150k)**
 - iv. **Durham Digital Access Station (\$100k)** – locations TBD
 - v. **Durham Skatepark Repair (\$1.2M)** – strongly favored by online ballots and student responses
 - I. This project raised the question of the integrity of the PB process, given how many more online voters supported it in comparison to paper ballots. However, staff noted the auditing efforts that are made: online ballots required a phone number and name, which were cross referenced in order to drop duplicates (~130)
 - f. Rosemary motioned to transfer \$580k of unencumbered funds from Cycle I to the Cycle IV projects. The PBSC unanimously approved the motion. This allows for funding the **Playground at Bethesda Park (\$750k)** while keeping \$200k as a contingency fund
 - g. Rosa motioned to approve the project slate and Angela seconded the motion. The PBSC unanimously approved
- VI. Action Items & Next Steps
- a. Council Presentation
 - b. PB Cycle IV Evaluation
 - i. Elizabeth K-G has begun engaging in research with participants. She spoke with dozens of people during the outreach phases and has already conducted ~15 in-depth interviews. Some of her initial findings are that PB attracts individuals who are registered voters but have never voted, as they do not feel they have an impact. Instead, they feel able to make informed contributions to PB and see the outcomes.
 - ii. A former Duke faculty member who has since moved to King's College London and University of Warwick continues to remain engaged and will participate in evaluation research
- VII. Adjourn
- Donna motioned to adjourn at 7:53 pm, seconded by Christopher.